

From: Scubalust@aol.com [<mailto:Scubalust@aol.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2005 8:54 AM
To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
Cc: yscuba@californiadiivers.com
Subject: MLPAComments: Monterey Breakwater to Lover's Cove

From: Dr. Lance Rennka - started SCUBA diving in 1957 (on the central coast of CA), became a SCUBA Instructor in 1965, started training SCUBA Instructors in 1968. Worked as a Marine Biological and Oceanographic Technician, Commercial Diver, Dive Director of an U/W Habitat, Professional SCUBA Instructor Trainer for 20 years, Director of the Scott Carpenter Man In the Sea Program and member of the MLPA Working Group - Morro Bay Area - Big Sur to Point Conception.

Subject: There are very few reliable, safe dive sites with easy access and diver support (air fill stations and equipment rentals) in Northern California.

The Monterey Breakwater to Lover's Cove area meets this criteria and no where else from the northern border of California to Morro Bay does!

To close any of this area to divers will force the "divers in training" (open water through Instructor trainees) to unreliable, inaccessible, non-supportive and dangerous areas to do training.

Divers from Santa Barbara north and as far away as Reno utilize the Monterey Breakwater to Lover's Cove area regularly for diver training and recreational diving.

To restrict divers from using any of this area will impact both the diving industry and the local economy. Hundreds of divers and their families from outside this area spend money in the local economy.

Recreational use of a natural resource is the highest and best use - legislated by the Federal and State laws. If the recreational divers must go, then what other recreatoional users are going to be next?

Remember the squeeky wheel gets the grease, but has anyone ever looked at how much money is spent by how many divers - from all over the US - in the Monterey area on a month by month basis - transportation, room, board, entertainment, shopping, diving support, and parking?